

94-1 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 13th. March, 1994.

Present: H. Wänke (President), H. McSween (Vice-President), R. Hewins (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), C. Chapman, M. Ebihara, G. MacPherson, D. Papanastassiou, D. Stöffler, T. Swindle.

Apologies: E. Anders, J. Goswami, M. Lipschutz

Guests: J. Goldstein; P. Jakeš, (item 7); D. Sears (item 5)

1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending, and added that he had no specific items to report, but would address each issue as it arose.

1.2. The President had approached the Barringer Crater Company, which generously agreed to donate Meteoritical Society subscriptions to ten "Eastern Bloc" institutions for two years.

2. Secretary's Report

2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated; only one minor correction was required.

Motion: that the amended minutes of the previous meeting be approved (McSween, seconded by Swindle; carried unanimously).

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes

2.2. The Secretary had received no alternative candidates for election to Council. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was therefore elected by affirmation.

3. Report on Pergamon-GS-MS Meeting

3.1. The annual meeting between Pergamon, the Geochemical Society (GS) and the Meteoritical Society (MS) took place at the GSA meeting last autumn; McSween represented the MS. Two main issues were raised:

(i) *Payment of salary to subscriptions secretary.* Currently, the GS pays the entire salary (*ca.* \$15k) of a part-time secretary who handles the subscriptions to *GCA*. The GS suggested that MS should contribute $\frac{1}{3}$ of this salary, since we receive $\frac{1}{3}$ of the royalties from Pergamon. No official request to the President of the MS has yet been made.

Much discussion followed. The Treasurer pointed out that he receives MS subscriptions, and simply sends a list of members requiring *GCA* to the *GCA* office, *i.e.* the Treasurer does most of the work.

Action: The MS will wait until it is approached officially regarding this matter, and will then seek clarification as to the nature of the work carried out by the part-time secretary for the MS.

(ii) *Investment of royalties.* The GS intends to start an endowment fund for the Society, using the royalties from Pergamon. The Vice-President recommended that the MS should also start to consider a similar scheme.

Much discussion followed. Consensus of opinion seemed to be that the MS needed a committee of trustees to invest any monies, which would recommend policies on short- and long-term investments.

Motion: Council authorises the Treasurer to invest widely the proceeds of the Pergamon royalties, until a decision is made on their future use (war chest or endowment fund) (McSween, seconded Hewins; 1 abstention).

Amendment: The Treasurer will investigate the possibilities of suitable investments, and make a recommendation at the Prague meeting (Papanastassiou, seconded by Swindle; carried unanimously).

3.2. Goswami submitted a letter to Council, concerning the future of *Meteoritics*. The letter was circulated to Councillors present, and formed the focus of subsequent discussion. There was much support for the sentiments expressed in the letter. Hewins informed Council that membership subscriptions were approximately constant, around 900-905. In order to expand *Meteoritics*, then rates must go up, which will

lead to a fall in numbers. Sears suggested that any expansion of *Meteoritics* must be funded by growth in the number of institutional subscriptions. The relationship between *Meteoritics*, *GCA* and the MS was discussed at length. It was suggested that a questionnaire for members be prepared by the *Meteoritics* managerial board, to determine *who* the members of the MS are, what are their interests, *etc.* A possible title change for the journal could also be discussed in the poll. Goswami and McSween might be co-opted onto the committee preparing the questionnaire, which could be circulated with the newsletter in the autumn. However, after extensive discussion, Council was not clear on what exactly the questionnaire would be determining, and its establishment was postponed.

Action: Hewins will determine, *via* the *GCA* office, what fraction of the membership subscribes to *GCA*, which members of the GS are also members of the MS, and how many of them publish in *GCA*. Wänke will cross-check the membership list to find out who published in *Meteoritics* and *GCA* in the years 1992 and 1993.

4. New Publications Committee

4.1. The Presidents of the MS and GS had contacted members of the Publications Committee, to ask them to reconsider their resignations. However, the entire PC remained firm, necessitating the appointment of a new PC. An *ad hoc* committee, chaired by Sears, met to nominate a new PC Chair. The candidate acceptable to both the MS and GS was Frank Podosek, who has agreed to accept the post. Thus far, however, no further members of the PC have been appointed.

Motion: The Council of the Meteoritical Society endorses the appointment of Frank Podosek as Chair of the Publications Committee (McSween, seconded by Swindle; carried unanimously).

4.2. The review of Faure, as Executive Editor (EE) of *GCA* should be underway. However, due to the problems with the PC, the review has not, as yet, commenced. The President will suggest to the President of the GS that since review of the EE could not take place on a reasonable timescale, the EE should simply be re-appointed, on a two year term. This would ensure the term expires when the Pergamon contract expires.

Motion: Council moves that the Executive Editor of *GCA* is re-appointed for a further two year term, without review, subject to the approval of the Geochemical Society (Wänke, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

5. Journals

5.1. *Meteoritics*: Sears presented a report on the current status of *Meteoritics* (attached). He suggested that Associate Editors (AE) were given free membership of the Society, as a reward for their efforts. After some discussion, this was amended to reduced membership rate.

Motion: Council moves that Associate Editors of *Meteoritics* be granted the right to reduced subscription rates for the Meteoritical Society, during the term of their office, if they so choose (Hewins, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

Sears noted that production costs at the editorial office had increased since the journal went over to electronic publishing, as the office is now doing the typesetting. Overall, however, production costs have decreased, from *ca.* \$18k per issue to *ca.* \$7k. Sears is in negotiation with Allen Press and other publishers for renewal of the printing contract. It is estimated that, given the reduced price of paper, annual costs will drop by a further \$12k per year.

5.2. *GCA*: Faure was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent a report (attached). Most of the points in the report were covered under discussion of the new PC (item 3).

6. Financial Report

6.1. *Meteoritics finances*: The journal's finances are in a healthy state (see attached sheet, prepared by Mike Lipschutz). Following the report from Sears that *Meteoritics* production costs might fall by a further \$12k, discussion followed regarding an appropriate level at which institutional rates should be fixed.

Motion: That the 1995 institutional rates be raised to \$220 for U.S. subscribers and \$235 for overseas (McSween, seconded by Grady; carried unanimously).

7. Society Meetings

7.1. The President has received a letter from David Black, Director of LPI, outlining the possible future contributions that LPI might make to MS meetings. Unfortunately, the LPI must reduce the level of support it provides for European meetings, and must also charge for non-U.S. mailings. However, it is still able to handle the abstracts, including formatting to camera-ready copy for *Meteoritics*, etc. These changes stem from the LPI handling meetings' registration fees. Jakeš pointed out that all fees for the 1994 meeting were being handled through Charles University in Prague, and therefore LPI were not involved with any of the meeting finances.

Action: The President will reply to David Black's letter.

7.2. A letter was circulated from Anders, regarding possible "profits" from MS meetings. Council felt that a local Organising Committee (OC) should have a certain amount of autonomy in allocation of funds, but that they should not be afraid of making a profit which is returned to the Society.

7.3. 1994: Prague (Jakeš): The OC has had a good response to the first circular, with around 380 responses, and 190 guests. The second circular is ready to be sent out, after slight alteration to put the abstract deadline back from the 25th April to the 2nd May. It will be mailed in the U.S. from LPI, and from Mainz for the rest of the world. Response to requests for sponsorship have been low, therefore the budget has been calculated on registration fee receipts alone. Travel money for students and East European scientists has been obtained from the Soros Foundation, the Barringer Crater Company and NASA. the registration fee is \$185, which includes the abstract fee and banquet cost of \$50. A meeting of the Programme Committee will be held in Mainz in May. The President will arrange funding for attendance at this meeting.

7.4. 1995: Washington D.C. (MacPherson): The OC has had considerable success in raising sponsorship from several bodies. Most of this money will be set aside for travel grants for students and East European scientists. The banquet fee will be *ca.* \$60, resulting in a registration fee below \$200. Any field trips organised will be short, and relatively cheap.

7.5. 1996: Berlin (Stöffler): Council was requested to accept a change of venue for the 1996 meeting, from Münster to Berlin. The meeting would take place in the Main Hall of the Humboldt University, and the banquet in the Dinosaur Hall of the Natural History Museum. No dates have yet been fixed for the meeting. initial funding has been sought from the German Science Foundation.

Motion: Council moves to accept the site of the 1996 Meteoritical Society Meeting as Berlin (Chapman, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

7.6. Future meetings: The President has received a formal letter of invitation to hold a Meteoritical Society Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in either 1997 or 1998. Much discussion followed on the *pros* and *cons* of this venue. The expense, political situation, etc. were considered. Council resolved to ask the proposers to attend the Council Meeting at Prague, to discuss the issue further. The membership will also be asked for their viewpoint at the Business Meeting in Prague.

Action: the Secretary will request the proposers to attend the Council meeting in Prague to put forward their invitation. The President will ascertain from Klaus Keil whether or not he is planning an invitation from Hawaii.

8. Any Other Business

It was proposed that the Treasurer should alter the membership subscription forms slightly, so that members have an opportunity to donate an additional personal subscription for a colleague. This was accepted by Council.

No further business. Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Monica M. Grady, 30th March 1994